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Aboriginal People Living Off-reserve and the Labour Market: Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, 2007

by Dominique Pérusse

Labour Statistics Division

Telephone: 613-951-4064

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.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
p	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

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Highlights

- For the first time, the Labour Force Survey is releasing data on Aboriginal people living off-reserve in all ten provinces. Previously, this data was only available for the Western provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

- The employment rate for Aboriginal people aged 25 to 54 was highest in Alberta, where it reached 77.7% in 2007.The strength of the labour market appears to have benefited both non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal Albertans. It was in Alberta that the employment rate gap between the two groups was the closest. Since Aboriginal people have seen their employment rate rise more rapidly than non-Aboriginal people, the gap between the two groups has narrowed.

- Although Saskatchewan was the province with the highest overall employment rate for persons aged 25 to 54, Aboriginal people did not benefit as much from the strong labour market conditions in 2007. This province had the widest gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal employment rates.

- For both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, the higher the education level, the higher the employment rate. However, the gaps between the employment rates of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people persist at all education levels.

- Among Aboriginal youth, those who finished high school were more successful in finding a job. The unemployment rate for young Aboriginal people aged 15 to 24 with high school completion or some post-secondary (12.2%) was half that of those without a high school diploma (24.1%).

- In the Atlantic region and in each of the other provinces, employment rates for young North American Indians living off-reserve were the lowest in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, at 28.1% and 36.8% respectively. The highest youth unemployment rate by province and aboriginal identity was observed in Manitoba, where one young North American Indian in three was unemployed.

Source, data history and definitions

This report draws on new data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which examines the labour market outcomes of Aboriginal populations living off-reserve for all ten provinces. 2007 marks the first year that the Aboriginal identity questions were extended to all provinces in the LFS. These identity questions were incorporated at an earlier date in Alberta (2003) and in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba (April 2004).

Although the LFS is a monthly survey, this analysis is based on annual data. The study of annual data is more reliable for small populations such as the Aboriginal population. The Atlantic provinces were also grouped together for more reliable estimates.

Exclusion of populations living in the territories and on-reserve

LFS estimates for the **territories** are not included in the national totals. Although the LFS produces data on the territories, a different methodology is used than that for the provinces.

The Labour Force Survey does not include the **population living on Indian reserves**. All data on the Aboriginal population in this report therefore reflect the situation of Inuit, Métis and North American Indians living off-reserve, in the ten provinces.

Although Inuit are included in the total for Aboriginal people, most of them are excluded from this report because they live in the territories, primarily Nunavut (15,300) and the Northwest Territories (2,900). However, according to the 2006 Census, 44% of Inuit were living in the provinces, mainly Quebec (6,900), Newfoundland and Labrador (3,600), Ontario (1,300) and Alberta (1,100).

Aboriginal identities

The Aboriginal population can be defined in various ways, based on the four questions asked in the census (aboriginal identity; member of an Indian band or First Nation; Registered or Treaty Indian; and ethnic origin, including Aboriginal ancestries), depending on the perspective and needs of the data user.

The Labour Force Survey measures the Aboriginal identity. A person has an Aboriginal identity if he or she reports identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, for example, North American Indian, Métis or Inuit. This is based on the individual's own perception of his/her Aboriginal identity. "Aboriginal identity" is not to be confused with "Aboriginal ancestry", another concept measured by the Census but not the LFS. Moreover, the LFS Aboriginal identity concept differs from the Aboriginal identity concept used in the Census, since Census uses more questions to define the identity. For more information, see the publication entitled How Statistics Canada Identifies Aboriginal Peoples

http://www.statcan.gc.ca/english/freepub/12-592-X

The main Aboriginal identities are **North American Indian**, **Métis** and **Inuit**. The respondent can also answer "**other identity**" or report **more than one identity**. In this report, Aboriginal people include these five categories, whereas North American Indians, Métis and Inuit are those who reported only one Aboriginal identity. Persons who identified as First Nation are classified with North American Indian. The term "North American Indian" is the one used in the LFS questionnaire, and will therefore be used in this report.

Comparison between LFS and Census:

Period covered and speed of release

The annual LFS estimates on Aboriginal people will be available every year, whereas the Census is conducted every five years. Another advantage is that LFS estimates are representative of the entire year (12 reference weeks), whereas census estimates relate to only a single week in May. The time that elapses between the collection and the release of the data is also shorter for the LFS, making it possible to draw a very current picture of the labour market for Aboriginal populations.

Population covered

The population studied is more limited in the LFS, since reserves are excluded, which constitutes an especially important difference in the case of data on Aboriginal people. Also, the estimates for the territories are not included in the national estimates.

Range of statistics

The census data undeniably provide a wider range of data than the LFS. Also, the Census defines the Aboriginal population in various ways, whereas the LFS measures only Aboriginal identity.

Additional information about comparability of estimates

Data from the LFS and the Census are not directly comparable, since the survey concepts and methods are different. For a more complete description of the differences, see the document "Differences between the LFS and Census estimates on the labour component, July 2008", available on request at Labour Statistics Division.

Aboriginal People Living Off-reserve and the Labour Market: Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, 2007

1 Analysis

1.1 Aboriginal people constitute a sizable workforce

At a time when the unemployment rate is historically low and there are inflationary pressures on wages, some sectors of the economy are looking for workers. To meet the demand, populations of all types must be courted; this includes employing retired persons and bringing in foreign workers.

The Aboriginal population, consisting of North American Indians, Métis and Inuit,[1] is also one of the populations with a great potential for expanding the labour force. Firstly, the Aboriginal population is young and growing.[2] Secondly, its employment rate is still well below that of non-Aboriginal people. In 2007, the unemployment rate for Aboriginal people was almost double the rate for non-Aboriginal people.

According to the census data, unemployment rates declined and employment rates rose between 2001 and 2006 for persons who identified as Aboriginal people. Nevertheless, substantial gaps persist between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. This study, based on LFS data for 2007, enables us to provide a more recent picture of the labour market status of Aboriginal people living off-reserve. This new source of information on Aboriginal people will make it possible to track the situation annually and might, for example, support programs for integration into the labour market and access to good jobs.

Aboriginal people living off-reserve represent a important labour force: in 2007, 345,000 Aboriginal people were participating in the labour market in the ten provinces. For purposes of comparison, the total supply of Aboriginal labour was equivalent in size to the labour force of four major cities combined, namely Saint John in New Brunswick, Sherbrooke, Kingston and Regina. Among Aboriginal participants in the labour market, 250,600 were employed full time, 57,800 were employed part-time and 36,500 were unemployed.

Overall, the Aboriginal population living off-reserve did not fare as well on the labour market in 2007 as the non-Aboriginal population. All age groups combined, the employment rate for Aboriginal people, at 59.0%, was below the rate of 63.6% for non-Aboriginal people. By the same token, the unemployment rate, at 10.6%, remained well above the non-Aboriginal rate of 5.9%.

However, a portion of these disparities is due to the fact that the Aboriginal population is relatively younger (see Table 1), and young people usually have a lower employment rate than adults. It is therefore preferable to study labour market status by age group, so as to limit the effect of age.

The analysis that follows will deal separately with the main working-age group (those aged 25 to 54), youths and older workers. In an effort to account for the diversity of Aboriginal peoples, the analysis will, when possible, distinguish between the separate identity groups: North American Indians, Métis and Inuit. Other major factors will also be examined, such as province, education, and the characteristics of jobs held.

Other factors are not examined in this study, such as the high rate of lone parenthood and the larger number of children per family. These factors might explain some differences observed with respect to labour market status.

1 See section "Source, data history and definitions."
2 See The Daily, *Aboriginal Peoples inCanadain 2006: Inuit, Métis and FirstNations, 2006 Census* , January 15, 2008 .

Since the LFS data on Aboriginal people have been available for a few years now for the Western provinces (see the section *Source, data history and definitions*), a section will be devoted to trends from 2004 to 2007.

Text table 1
Distribution of population aged 15 and over living off-reserve in the 10 provinces, by age group, 2006

	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal			
		Total	North American Indians	Métis	Inuit
	number				
15 years and over	**24,772,000**	**593,000**	**269,000**	**286,000**	**14,000**
	percent				
15 to 24 years	16	25	25	24	31
25 to 54 years	53	58	59	58	55
55 years and over	31	17	16	18	14

Source(s): Statistics Canada, Census 2006.

1.2 Ages 25 to 54

1.2.1 Aboriginal people less likely to participate in the labour market

Persons aged 25 to 54 are generally those most likely to participate in the labour market and have a job, since they have most often completed their education and have not yet retired. However, labour market participation depends on socio-demographic characteristics as well as personal and cultural factors. Thus, employment status could be influenced by a number of factors including one's age when, say, getting an education, having one's first child or retiring; the presence of children in the home and the parent's age; the number of children and their age; and lone parenthood. These factors, along with the availability of jobs, might, in part, explain the differences in Aboriginal people's labour market outcomes.

Aboriginal people aged 25 to 54 living off-reserve in Canada's provinces did not, in 2007, fare as well in the labour market as non-Aboriginal people. Firstly, the proportion of Aboriginal people participating in the labour market was smaller: their participation rate was 76.9%, compared to 86.8% for their non-Aboriginal counterparts, with the gap being greater for women (see Table 2). Secondly, within the labour force, a greater proportion of Aboriginal people swelled the ranks of the unemployed. The unemployment rate for Aboriginal people was 8.8%, whereas for non-Aboriginal people it was 5.0%.

Text table 2
Labour force characteristics of population aged 25 to 54 by aboriginal identity and sex, 2007

	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal		
		Total	North American Indians	Métis
	percent			
Both sexes				
Participation rate	86.8	76.9	73.9	80.1
Employment rate	82.5	70.1	66.1	74.3
Unemployment rate	5.0	8.8	10.5	7.3
Men				
Participation rate	91.3	83.5	81.0	86.1
Employment rate	86.5	76.0	72.9	79.2
Unemployment rate	5.2	9.0	10.1	8.0
Women				
Participation rate	82.4	70.8	67.8	74.1
Employment rate	78.5	64.7	60.4	69.4
Unemployment rate	4.7	8.6	10.9	6.4

Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

1.2.2 Labour market integration varies with identity

Employment status varied according to Aboriginal identity. The employment rate was 66.1% for North American Indians living off-reserve aged 25 to 54, whereas it was 82.5% for non-Aboriginal people. Also, the unemployment rate of North American Indians (10.5%) was more than double that of non-Aboriginal people (5.0%).

The employment rate for Métis was 74.3%, which was 8.2 percentage points below the rate for non-Aboriginal people. Métis also had a higher unemployment rate (7.3%) than non-Aboriginal people (5.0%).

The prevalence of part-time work was similar among non-Aboriginal people, North American Indians and Métis; with part-time rates ranging from 11.5% to 13.0%. Part-time rates were also similar among men in the different identity groups (from 4.6% to 7.2%) and among women (19.0% to 20.7%).

For Inuit, the size and distribution of the LFS sample in the ten provinces was insufficient to differentiate their participation and employment rates from those of the other groups. Data from the 2006 Census showed that their employment rate (62.9%) was lower than that of non-Aboriginal people (81.6%). The Inuit had an unemployment rate more than three times higher than that of non-Aboriginal people (18.3% versus 5.2%, respectively).[3]

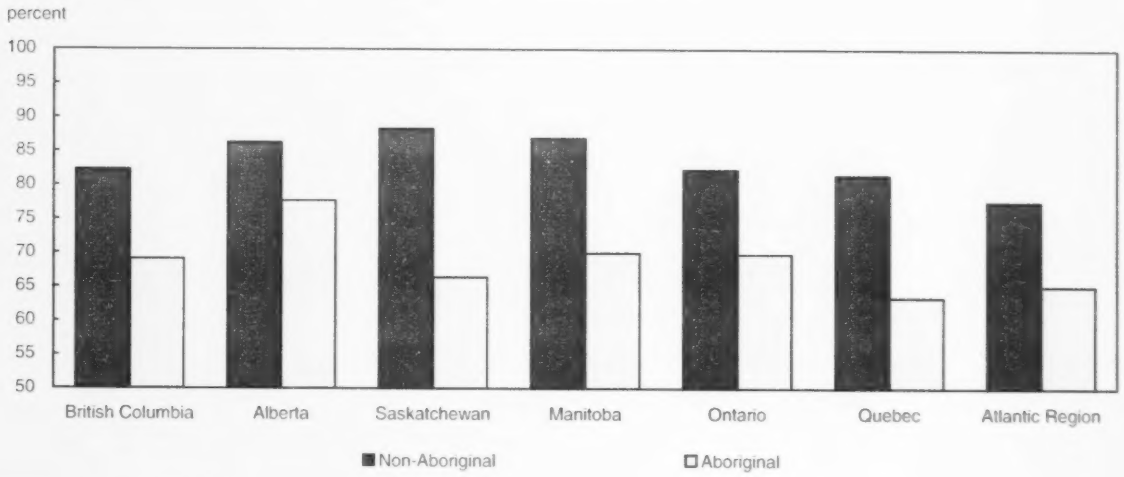
1.2.3 Greater disparities in Saskatchewan, Quebec and Manitoba

Aboriginal people's employment rate was highest in Alberta, where it reached 77.7% in 2007 (see Table 3). The strength of the labour market appears to have been beneficial to both non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal Albertans. It was in Alberta that the employment rates of the two groups were the closest. Also, the North American Indians and Métis in that province had similar employment rates.

On the other hand, in Saskatchewan, even though that province had the highest overall employment rate for persons aged 25 to 54, Aboriginal people do not appear to have benefited as much from the strong labour market in 2007. Saskatchewan was the province with the largest gap in employment rates between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. The gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal employment rates was also large in Quebec and Manitoba.

3 Based on the population aged 25 to 54 living off-reserve in the ten provinces. For an explanation of the differences between Census estimates and estimates from the Labour Force Survey, see the document "Differences between the LFS and Census estimates on the labour component, July 2008", available on request at Labour Statistics Division.

Chart 1
Employment rate of population aged 25 to 54 by province or region, 2007



Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

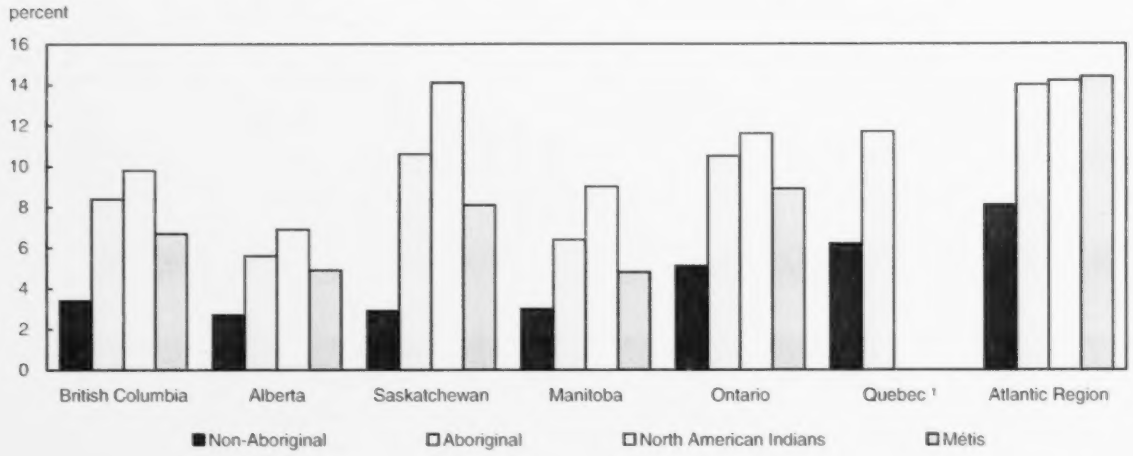
The employment rate of North American Indians living off-reserve in Manitoba (58.5%) and Saskatchewan (56.2%) was approximately 30 percentage points lower than that of non-Aboriginal people. In Quebec, their employment rate (58.8%) was 23 percentage points lower than that of non-Aboriginal people.The gap was narrowest in Alberta (9 percentage points).

The Métis employment rate was close to 69% in Quebec, the Atlantic region and Ontario. Employment rates were higher in the other provinces, especially Manitoba (77.8%) and Alberta (78.2%). The employment rates of Métis were lower than those of non-Aboriginal people in each province or region, with the gaps ranging from 8 to 14 percentage points.

For the Atlantic region and for each of the other provinces, the unemployment rate of Aboriginal people was consistently higher than that of non-Aboriginal people. The gap was especially large in Saskatchewan, where the Aboriginal unemployment rate was 10.6% compared to 2.9% for non-Aboriginal people. The Atlantic region had the highest unemployment rate in Canada both for non-Aboriginal people (8.1%) and for Aboriginal people (14.0%).

In the Atlantic region in 2007, the participation rate of Métis (80.5%) was close to that of non-Aboriginal people (84.5%). However, Métis had a higher unemployment rate of 14.4%, than the 8.1% for their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

Chart 2
Unemployment rate of population aged 25 to 54 by province or region and aboriginal identity, 2007



1 Data for North American Indians and Métis in Quebec were suppressed because of coefficient of variation (CV) >33.3% and/or very small estimates.
Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Text table 3
Labour force characteristics of population aged 25 to 54 by aboriginal identity and province or region, 2007

	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal		
		Total	North American Indians	Metis
	percent			
Total for 10 provinces				
Participation rate	86.8	76.9	73.9	80.1
Employment rate	82.5	70.1	66.1	74.3
Unemployment rate	5.0	8.8	10.5	7.3
Atlantic Region				
Participation rate	84.5	75.8	70.0	80.5
Employment rate	77.6	65.1	60.0	68.9
Unemployment rate	8.1	14.0	14.2	14.4 E
Quebec				
Participation rate	86.9	71.7	65.7	79.8
Employment rate	81.5	63.4	58.8	69.5
Unemployment rate	6.2	11.7 E	F	F
Ontario				
Participation rate	86.8	78.0	78.9	75.6
Employment rate	82.3	69.8	69.8	68.8
Unemployment rate	5.1	10.5	11.6	8.9 E
Manitoba				
Participation rate	89.6	74.8	64.4	81.8
Employment rate	86.9	70.0	58.5	77.8
Unemployment rate	3.0	6.4	9.0	4.8 E
Saskatchewan				
Participation rate	90.9	74.3	65.4	81.8
Employment rate	88.3	66.4	56.2	75.2
Unemployment rate	2.9	10.6	14.1	8.1
Alberta				
Participation rate	88.6	82.3	82.8	82.2
Employment rate	86.3	77.7	77.1	78.2
Unemployment rate	2.7	5.6	6.9 E	4.9
British Columbia				
Participation rate	85.2	75.5	73.3	78.6
Employment rate	82.3	69.1	66.1	73.4
Unemployment rate	3.4	8.4	9.8	6.7 E

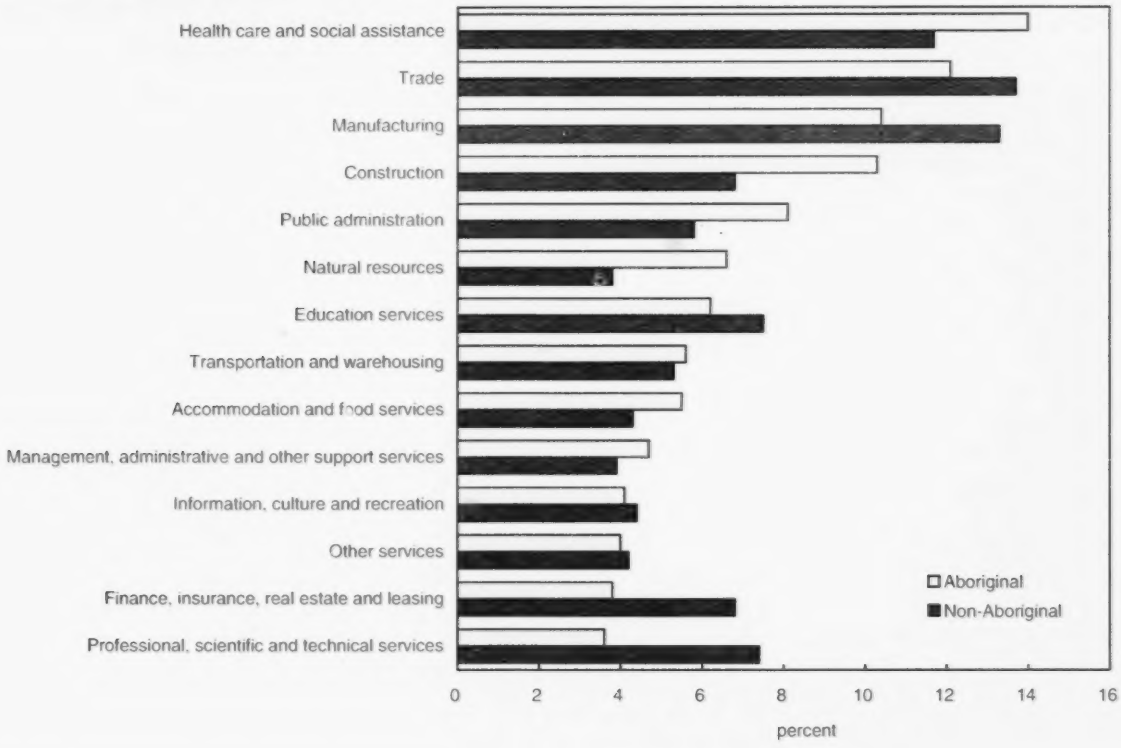
E use with caution (coefficient of variation between 16.5% and 33.3%)
F too unreliable to be published (because of coefficient of variation>33.3% and/or very small estimates)
Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

1.2.4 Aboriginal labour force more represented in certain industries

Aboriginal people work in all industries of the economy, but are concentrated in different industries than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Aboriginal people were approximately two times more likely to be employed in natural resources and two times less likely to be employed in professional, scientific and technical services; and finance and insurance than non-Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal workers were also somewhat more represented in construction; in health care and social assistance; and in public administration, while they were less likely to be working in manufacturing than non-Aboriginal people.

Chart 3
Distribution of jobs of population aged 25 to 54 by industry, 2007



Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

1.2.5 Education reduces job disparities

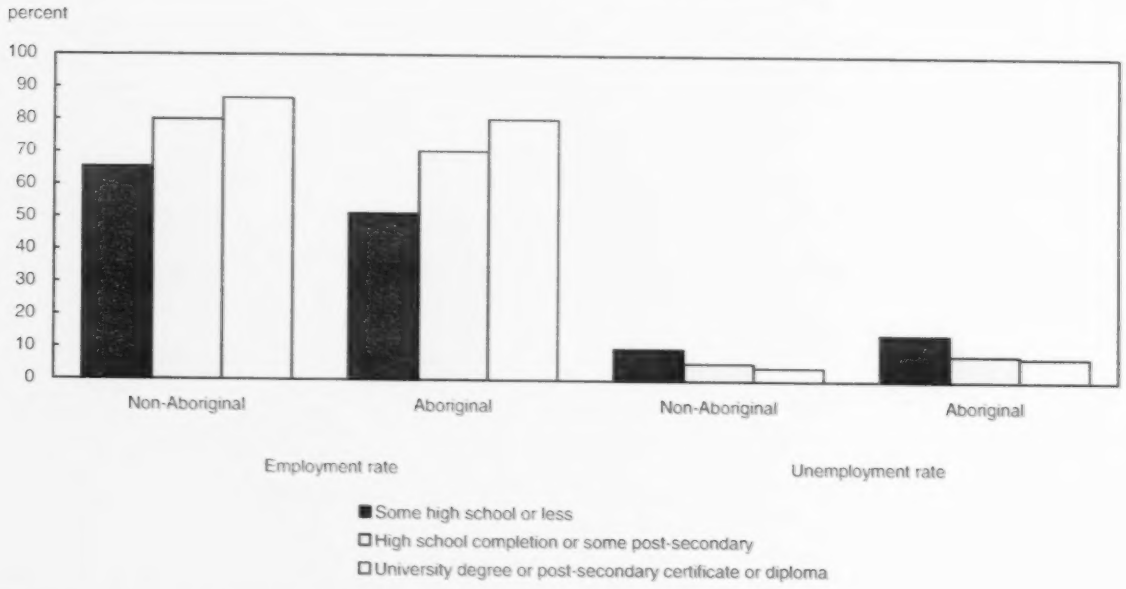
Like their non-Aboriginal counterparts, Aboriginal people living off-reserve in the ten provinces who had a higher level of education also had a higher employment rate than those who had not completed post-secondary studies. Thus in 2007, the employment rate of Aboriginal people aged 25 to 54 with a post-secondary certificate or diploma or a university degree was 80.2%, compared to 70.4% for those who graduated from high school, and 51.2% for those who had not finished high school (Table 4).

Education also reduces the employment rate gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people with a post-secondary certificate or diploma or a university degree had an employment rate 6.3 percentage points lower than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. On the other hand, the gap was 14.3 percentage points for those without a high school diploma.

However, the gaps in the employment rates between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people persist at all education levels.

Education also tends to reduce the unemployment rate for Aboriginal people. The difference in unemployment rates is especially pronounced between those who do not have a high school diploma and those who have one; in 2007, the unemployment rate between these two Aboriginal groups was 14.2% compared to 8.0%.

Chart 4
Labour force characteristics of population aged 25 to 54 by educational attainment, 2007



Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Having a non-university post-secondary diploma or certificate improves the employment rate for Aboriginal people, but this is not the case with the unemployment rate. Aboriginal people who had completed non-university post-secondary education in 2007 had a higher employment rate (78.9%) than those who only completed high school (70.4%). But, since more of them were looking for work, the unemployment rate for Aboriginal people who had completed non-university post-secondary education (7.9%) was similar to the rate for those who had only completed high school (8.0%).

Text table 4
Labour force characteristics of population aged 25 to 54 by educational attainment, 2007

	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal
	percent	
Some post-secondary or less		
Participation rate	81.1	69.0
Employment rate	75.8	61.8
Unemployment rate	6.6	10.4
Some high school or less		
Participation rate	72.6	59.7
Employment rate	65.5	51.2
Unemployment rate	9.8	14.2
High school completion or some post-secondary		
Participation rate	84.6	76.5
Employment rate	80.0	70.4
Unemployment rate	5.4	8.0
University degree or post-secondary certificate or diploma		
Participation rate	90.2	86.5
Employment rate	86.5	80.2
Unemployment rate	4.1	7.3
Post-secondary certificate or diploma		
Participation rate	90.4	85.7
Employment rate	86.3	78.9
Unemployment rate	4.5	7.9
Trade school certificate or diploma		
Participation rate	90.6	85.9
Employment rate	85.7	77.4
Unemployment rate	5.4	10.0
Community college, CEGEP		
Participation rate	90.4	86.3
Employment rate	86.6	80.3
Unemployment rate	4.1	6.9
University degree		
Participation rate	90.0	89.7
Employment rate	86.8	85.3
Unemployment rate	3.5	F

F too unreliable to be published (because of coefficient of variation>33.3% and/or very small estimates)
Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

1.2.6 Wage disparities

On average, Aboriginal people received an hourly wage 12% lower than that of non-Aboriginal people in 2007 (Table 5). Wage gaps were observed among both men and women; in the Atlantic region and in all the other provinces; and within most industries. The gaps also persisted regardless of whether or not Aboriginal people had completed a post-secondary education. For all provinces combined, North American Indians aged 25 to 54 averaged $19.33 per hour, Métis $20.09 and non-Aboriginal people $22.33. It should be noted that these data are for employees only and reflect the wage received, including tips and commissions, before tax and other deductions.

Text table 5
Average hourly wages of employees aged 25 to 54 by aboriginal identity, sex, province or region, and educational attainment, 2007

	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal		
		Total	North American Indians	Métis
	dollars			
Total employees	**22.33**	**19.70**	**19.33**	**20.09**
Sex				
Men	24.28	20.98	20.33	21.66
Women	20.37	18.35	18.32	18.34
Province or region				
Atlantic Region	18.77	17.52	16.04	18.59
Quebec	21.02	18.38	19.39	17.45
Ontario	23.37	20.22	19.96	20.56
Manitoba	20.55	17.90	17.17	18.32
Saskatchewan	21.20	19.23	18.17	19.95
Alberta	24.55	21.42	21.37	21.69
British Columbia	22.25	19.95	19.16	21.06
Educational attainment				
Some post-secondary or less	18.57	17.66	16.93	18.58
University degree or post-secondary certificate or diploma	24.25	21.66	21.88	21.41

Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

1.3 Youths aged 15 to 24

The data on youths include all persons aged 15 to 24, whether in school or not. In 2007, 43% of Aboriginal youth were in school, compared to 50% of non-Aboriginal youth. The age at which young people are in school and complete their education is one of the factors that may explain differences in employment and unemployment rates between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

1.3.1 Unemployment rate high among Aboriginal youth without a high school diploma

One-quarter of working-age Aboriginal people are youths aged 15 to 24, and many of them are unemployed. While the unemployment rate for young non-Aboriginal people was already high at 11.0%, it was even higher for young Métis (14.9%) and for young North American Indians living off-reserve (18.7%) (Table 6). According to data from the 2006 Census, young Inuit in the provinces had the highest unemployment rate, at 24.7%.

Text table 6
Labour force characteristics of population aged 15 to 24 by aboriginal identity and sex, 2007

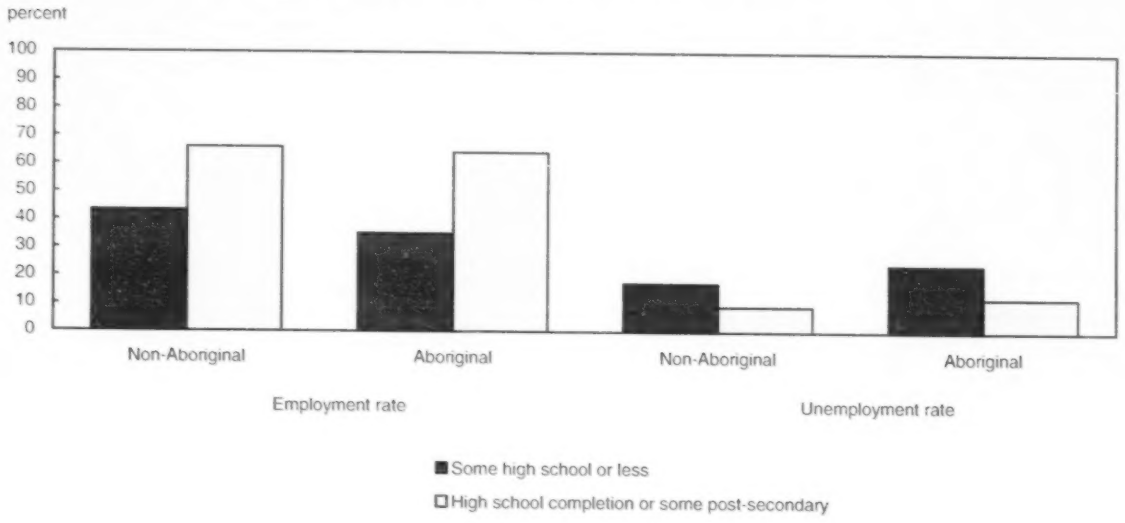
	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal		
		Total	North American Indians	Metis
	percent			
Both sexes				
Participation rate	67.2	59.3	55.1	64.5
Employment rate	59.8	49.3	44.8	54.9
Unemployment rate	11.0	16.9	18.7	14.9
Men				
Participation rate	67.5	62.5	59.6	66.0
Employment rate	59.4	51.0	47.4	55.4
Unemployment rate	12.1	18.4	20.5	16.0
Women				
Participation rate	66.8	56.3	51.3	62.9
Employment rate	60.3	47.7	42.6	54.3
Unemployment rate	9.9	15.3	16.8	13.7

Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

While unemployment is high among young Aboriginal people without high school, those who have completed high school are more successful in finding a job. The unemployment rate for young Aboriginal people was half as high among those with high school completion or some post-secondary (12.2%) as among those who had no high school diploma (24.1%).

As is the case with workers in the main age group, education enables young Aboriginal people to reduce the gaps separating them from their non-Aboriginal counterparts in the labour market. The employment rate for young Aboriginal people who had completed high school was 64.1%, a rate comparable to that of their non-Aboriginal counterparts (65.9%). On the other hand, the employment rate of young Aboriginal people without a high school diploma was 35.2%, or 8.1 percentage points below that of non-Aboriginal people.

Chart 5
Labour force characteristics of youths aged 15 to 24 by educational attaintment, 2007

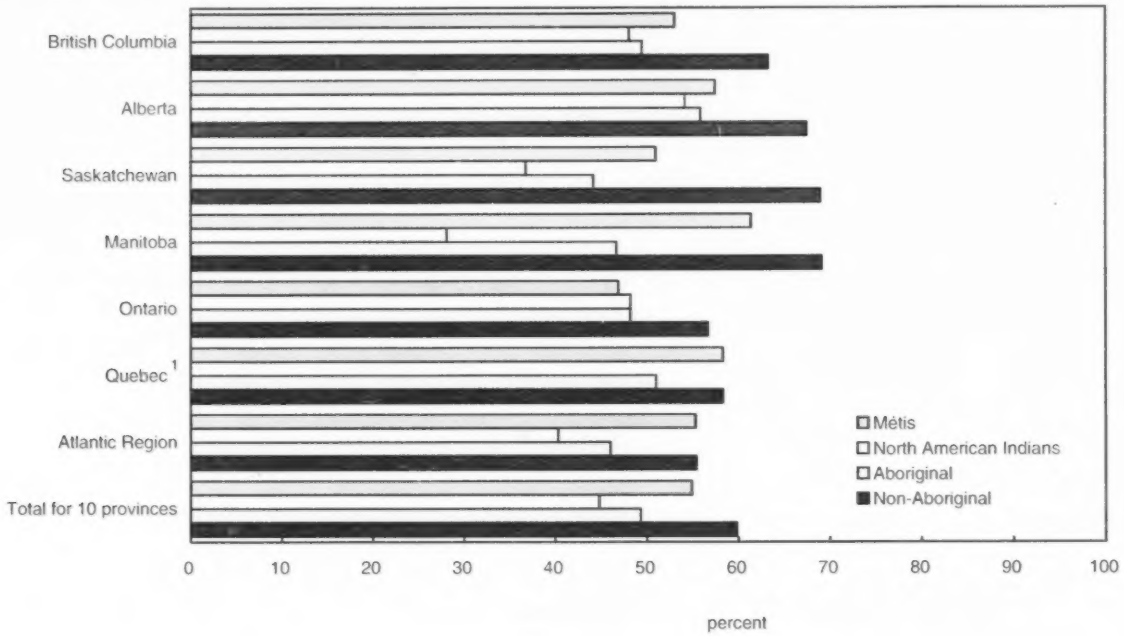


Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

The low employment rates for youths in Quebec apply equally to Métis and non-Aboriginal people, whose rate is 58.3%. The picture is similar in the Atlantic region, where young Métis and non-Aboriginal people have comparable employment rates of approximately 55%. In the Atlantic region, the employment rate of young North American Indians living off-reserve was lower than for the other two groups, at 40.3%.

Manitoba and Saskatchewan had the lowest employment rates for young North American Indians living off-reserve, at 28.1% and 36.8% respectively. The highest unemployment rate by province and identity was observed in Manitoba, where one North American Indian in three was unemployed.

Chart 6
Employment rate of youths aged 15 to 24 by aboriginal identity and province or region, 2007



1. Data for North American Indians in Quebec were suppressed because of coefficient of variation (CV) >33.3% and/or very small estimates.
Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

The two main industries in which both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youths were working were retail trade and accommodation and food services.

Text table 7
Labour force characteristics of population aged 15 to 24 by aboriginal identity and province or region, 2007

	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal		
		Total	North American Indians	Metis
	percent			
Atlantic region				
Participation rate	64.2	56.3	50.7	65.2
Employment rate	55.4	46.0	40.3	55.3
Unemployment rate	13.8	18.2 E	F	F
Quebec				
Participation rate	66.6	59.9	51.9 E	66.5
Employment rate	58.3	51.0	F	58.3
Unemployment rate	12.5	F	F	F
Ontario				
Participation rate	65.1	59.9	59.7	59.5
Employment rate	56.7	48.2	48.2	46.9
Unemployment rate	12.9	19.6	19.3 E	F
Manitoba				
Participation rate	75.0	58.3	41.3	71.4
Employment rate	69.1	46.7	28.1	61.4
Unemployment rate	7.9	19.8	32.0	14.0 E
Saskatchewan				
Participation rate	73.9	55.3	47.9	62.1
Employment rate	69.0	44.2	36.8	51.0
Unemployment rate	6.6	20.1	23.3	17.9 E
Alberta				
Participation rate	72.5	64.4	61.3	67.1
Employment rate	67.5	55.9	54.2	57.5
Unemployment rate	6.9	13.2	11.7 E	14.3 E
British Columbia				
Participation rate	68.2	57.5	57.6	58.7
Employment rate	63.3	49.5	48.1	53.1
Unemployment rate	7.3	13.9	16.4 E	F

E use with caution (coefficient of variation between 16.5% and 33.3%)
F too unreliable to be published (because of coefficient of variation>33.3% and/or very small estimates)
Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

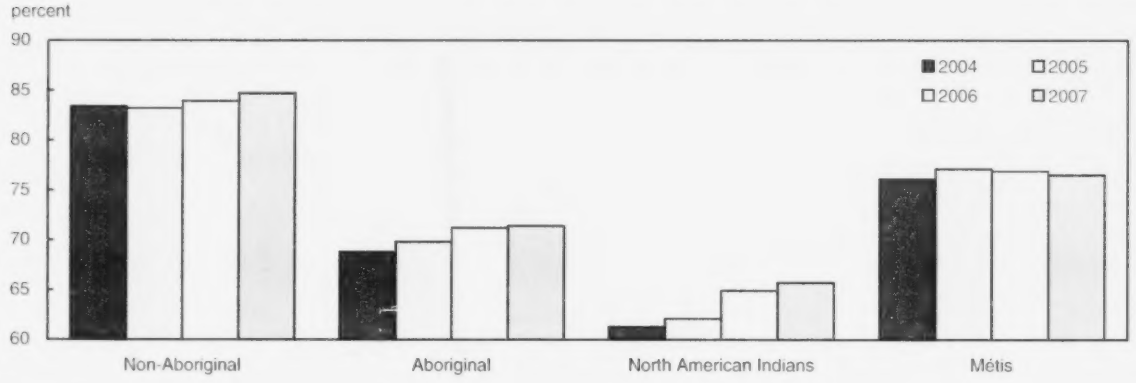
1.4 Workers aged 55 and over

Unlike younger Aboriginal people, those aged 55 and over had an employment rate as high as or higher than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. The employment rate of older North American Indians (32.3%) was similar to that of non-Aboriginal people in the same age group (31.7%), while the Métis employment rate was higher (36.4%). Because older Aboriginal people were also more likely to be participating in the labour market, the unemployment rate of older Aboriginal people (8.1%) was higher than that of non-Aboriginal people (4.8%).

1.5 Employment trends in the Western provinces

From 2004 to 2007, the employment rate of North American Indians aged 25 to 54 living off-reserve in the Western provinces grew slightly more rapidly than that of non-Aboriginal people. Even so, their employment rate in 2007 (65.7%) remained substantially below that of non-Aboriginal people (84.7%). The Métis employment rate remained relatively stable during this period and stood at 76.5% in 2007.

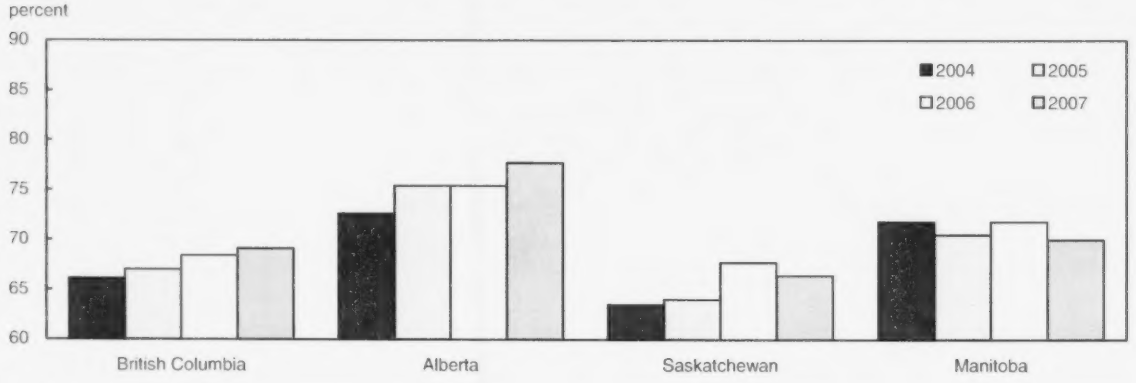
Chart 7
Employment rate of population aged 25 to 54 by Aboriginal identity in Western Canada, 2004 to 2007



Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

The strongest increases in the employment rate of Aboriginal people living off-reserve from 2004 to 2007 were observed in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The employment rate of Aboriginal people aged 25 to 54 in Saskatchewan went from 63.5% in 2004 to 66.4% in 2007. In Alberta, the employment rate was already the highest, but it increased even more rapidly than that of Aboriginal people in the other provinces, reaching 77.7% in 2007. Alberta's job market was very dynamic in 2006 and 2007. Non-Aboriginal Albertans also saw an increase in their employment rate, which rose from 85.1% in 2004 to 86.3% in 2007. Since the employment rate of Aboriginal people rose more rapidly than that of non-Aboriginal people, the gap between the two groups narrowed.

Chart 8
Employment rate of Aboriginal population aged 25 to 54 by province in Western Canada, 2004 to 2007

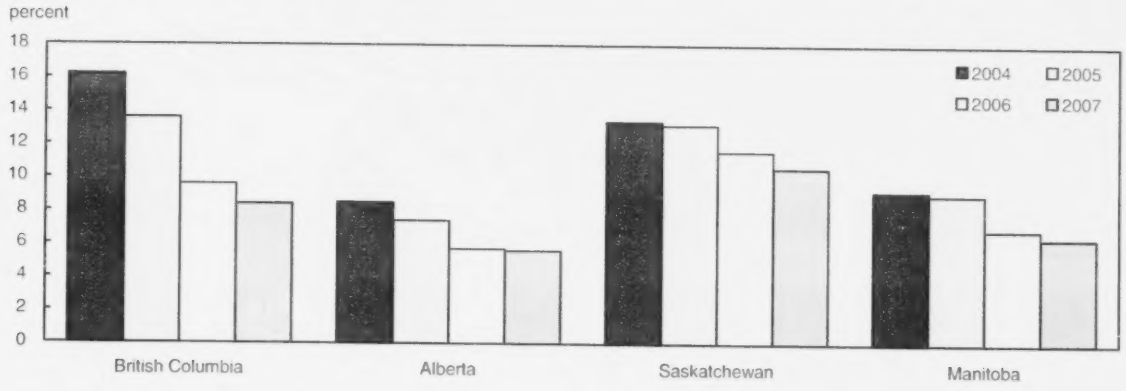


Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

The unemployment rate of Aboriginal people living off-reserve fell in all four Western provinces during this period. It dropped by about 3 percentage points in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but the decrease was even more remarkable in British Columbia. This province's high unemployment rate of 16.2% in 2004 for Aboriginal people declined each year, falling to 8.4% in 2007. This narrowed the gap between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal 25 to 54 year-olds , as during this period the unemployment rate of non-Aboriginal people in British

Columbia declined from 5.5% to 3.4%. Saskatchewan's Aboriginal people are now those whose unemployment rate is the highest in Western Canada, at 10.6%.

Chart 9
Unemployment rate of Aboriginal population aged 25 to 54 by province in Western Canada, 2004 to 2007



Note(s): Data excludes people living on reserves or in the territories.
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.